

### **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-20 are now present in this application, of which claims 11 and 17 are independent. By this amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

#### **Examiner Interview**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview which was conducted on May 2, 2008. An Examiner Interview Summary was made of record as Paper No. 20080502. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed the rejection of independent claims 1, 11, and 17 and possible claim amendments to independent claim 1. During the Interview, Applicants' representative argued, and the Examiner was persuaded, that Morton failed to teach the claimed inventions set forth in independent claims 11 and 17. In particular, Applicants' representative argued that Morton failed to show or describe a lip extending radially inward from an interior side of the gasket around an inner circumference of the gasket. Agreement was not reached with regard to independent claim 1.

In order to advance prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been canceled. Therefore, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

#### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 1-7 and 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morton. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morton. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been

canceled, thus rendering a portion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this portion of the rejection are respectfully requested.

With regarding to claims 11 and 17, Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 11 and 17 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Morton, as discussed more fully during the Examiner Interview discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18-20, Applicants submit that claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11 or 17, which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18-20 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 11 or 17, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Amendment dated July 8, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2008

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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